

# THE REA FAMILY

## *Missionaries to Zambia*



### June 2026

#### **Prayer requests:**

Exchange Rate

Witnessing  
Conversations

Personal Safety

It is too common in Zambia to see parents abandon their children. For a variety of reasons, none of them good, children will be sent to live with relatives, they will be just “dropped off” for months at another home and this is “normal”. In our church we have a teenager who is burdened with taking care of her two small siblings as the mother is simply gone, drunk, and oblivious to her responsibility to care for her children. It is tragic, sad and unjust. It causes much trauma, suffering, and pain. And we see it all of the time. We help who we can and where we can, but we realize that no amount of money, food, and material help can solve a spiritual problem. And hundreds of thousands of children exist, just in the one city we minister in, that are also in that same dire situation.

#### **Sending Church:**

Valley Baptist Church  
304 Frontage Rd. N.  
Pacific, WA 98047  
253-939-3938

I was recently talking to my wife about one of these situations. Two sisters are dealing with a child: the responsible one (where the child is often left), and the irresponsible mother (who often leaves her child). I asked my wife, “How can two people grow up in the same home and have such vastly different ideas about what is good for a child!?”

#### **Field Contact:**

Zambia Number  
260 974 080 082

US/Google Voice  
Rings through  
to Zambia  
253-237-3010

My wife reminded me that the responsible one was not always that way. She did the same thing as the irresponsible one many years ago. But she came to church, got saved and was taught by my wife. She learned to discipline her child biblically and was mocked by the culture for it. Then the same mockers began to ask her why her child was so well behaved. She sacrificed to bring her abandoned children back into her home and has tried to become a good, biblical mother to the best of her ability. These were all small decisions made over years – not days. It was a gradual life change that in the midst of time was hardly discernable.

#### **Support Address:**

GIBM  
Missionary David Rea  
P.O. Box 700  
Sherman, TX 75091

In the rush to “do missions” there is a temptation to move fast. After all we all want to see dozens of churches started all over the world. But spiritual growth often takes time. And without real spiritual growth nothing will last. Ideas that we take for granted in a Western biblically influenced society are often absent in other cultures. It was a missionary wife that said it was not right to just leave your kids at an auntie’s home for

her to raise them. And it was the first time in that mothers life that she had heard ANYONE say that. And it was a relationship of love and trust that made it possible for her to believe it and accept it. Spiritual growth takes time.

I had wrongly viewed the character of one sister as something she just had due to how she was raised. When in reality it was the influence of the Gospel and a missionary wife and ultimately the work of God in her life that had made the change. Real spiritual growth is often invisible to even the one experiencing it. We struggle with becoming Christ like, we struggle with failure to become what we know we should be. But when we look back in our own lives we see a different person in the past. The old man was much more a part of our life in years past. And so it is on the mission field. That same process that happened in our life is happening in the lives of those we serve here.